

Clinton Avenue Historic District  
South Smith House  
290 Clinton Avenue  
Kingston  
Ulster County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5561-B

HABS,  
NY,  
56-KING,  
21B-

PHOTOGRAPH

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. NY-5561-B

## CLINTON AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

## SOUTH SMITH HOUSE

Location: 290 Clinton Avenue, Kingston, Ulster County,  
New York.  
Latitude 41° 56' 04" Longitude 74° 01' 04"

Present Owner:  
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Barnhart.

Present Use: Private residence.

Significance: The house is a fine one-story Greek Revival  
cottage built in the 1830s by entrepreneurs who  
leased the building to tenants.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built circa 1831-39.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

1831 Deed: 30 September 1831, Recorded: 25  
liber 38, page 72  
John Sudam  
Mary H. Sudam, his wife  
to  
Joseph S. Smith

1837 Deed: 29 April 1837, Recorded: 1 June 1837  
liber 48, page 638  
Joseph S. Smith  
to  
Jonathan D. Wilson  
This is the northerly half of the lot  
Smith purchased from Sudam.

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- 1838 Deed: 12 November 1838, Recorded: 19  
November 1838  
liber 51, page 477  
James O. Linderman, Master of Chancery for  
Jonathan D. Wilson and others  
to  
Whiting Weeks
- 1838 Deed: November 1838, Recorded: 19  
November 1838  
liber 51, page 472  
Whiting Weeks  
Catharine Weeks, his wife  
to  
Charles Stone
- 1845 Deed: 1 November 1845, Recorded: 1  
November 1845  
liber 64, page 319  
Charles Stone  
Amy L. Stone, his wife  
to  
Caleb S. Clay
- 1860 Deed: 1 May 1860, Recorded 23 May 1860  
liber 112, page 233  
Caleb S. Clay  
Jane V. Clay, his wife  
to  
George Clay  
The sale included the house and lot to the  
south that Caleb Clay had purchased in 1849 (liber  
73, page 261), thus rejoining the two halves of the  
property that Sudam sold to Smith in 1831.
- 1870 Deed: 26 January 1870, Recorded: 21  
February 1870  
liber 160, page 200  
George Clay  
to  
Rebecca S. Hollister, guardian of  
Henrietta Armitage, and  
Anna Maria Armitage

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- 1880 Deed: 1 March 1880, Recorded: 11 March 1880  
liber 222, page 6  
Henrietta Armitage  
Anna Maria Armitage  
to  
Frederick L. Westbrook
- 1890 Deed: 24 December 1890, Recorded: 11 July  
1891  
liber 300, page 61  
Frederick L. Westbrook  
to  
Jane Amelia Westbrook  
Sale includes only the southerly of the two  
houses and its lot.
- 1938 Will written: 6 June 1927, Proved: 21  
October 1938  
liber 17 of wills, page 365  
Jane Amelia Westbrook  
to  
Jeannette Sanford Warren
- 1939 Deed: 25 August 1939, Recorded: 26 August  
1939  
liber 604, page 296  
Jeannette Sanford Warren  
to  
Milton Wagenfoehr  
Katherine K. Wagenfoehr
- 1945 Deed: 1 October 1945, Recorded: 1 October  
1945  
Milton H. Wagenfoehr  
Katherine K. Wagenfoehr  
to  
Berwyn F. Mattison  
Ann B. Mattison
- 1946 Deed: 21 October 1946, Recorded: 21 October  
1946  
liber 674, page 48  
Berwyn F. Mattison  
Ann B. Mattison  
to  
Harry M. Barnhart  
Mary E. Barnhart

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4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: Joseph S. Smith apparently had two nearly identical houses built for speculation in the 1830s on his lot on East Front Street (now Clinton Avenue). He then divided the lot down the middle and sold the two houses separately.
6. Alterations and additions: Dormer windows and a small addition to the north have been added since the house was built.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The builder and many owners of the house in the last century were entrepreneurs. Before 1890, few of the owners occupied the house.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, County Clerk's Office, Ulster County Office  
Building, Kingston, New York.

Wills, Surrogate's Office, Ulster County Office  
Building, Kingston, New York.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Map of Ulster County. Philadelphia: Taintor, Dawson and  
Company, 1858.

Prepared by: William C. Badger  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a good example of a Greek Revival building.
2. Condition of fabric: The over-all condition of the house is good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one-and-a-half-story rectangular building is approximately 27' across the front.
2. Foundations: The house sits on a stone foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The house has white painted clapboards as its sheathing. It also has horizontal corner boards painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: The house's structural system is wood frame construction.
5. Stoop: A two-step stoop with flanking rails leads to the front entrance.
6. Chimney: A brick chimney is situated on the south gable.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance is in the left bay of the house. It has a full Greek entablature with four-paned sidelights on either side. The white painted door has elongated, graduated panels in a classical design.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The house has wooden double hung windows and six-over-six light sash and louvered shutters. The window trim is of simple classical design painted white.
8. Roof:
  - A. Shape, covering: A gabled roof with asphalt shingles shelters the house.
  - b. Dormers: There are two shed dormers, each with three small windows across the front roof.

- C. Description of Interior: The house was inaccessible at the time the survey was being conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- D. Site: The house is situated near the sidewalk on Clinton Avenue. It is joined to the house by a connecting wing. It has a sloping rear yard.

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Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
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### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission with financial assistance from the New York Council on the Arts. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS and under the supervision of Roy Eugene Graham (University of Texas at Austin) by student architects Philip D. Ward (University of Washington), A. Carol Boerder (University of Texas at Austin), M. Morgan Gick (University of Notre Dame), and Stephen O. Fildes (Texas Tech University). The drawings were edited in December 1972 by architect John Burns. The written architectural and historical data was prepared by William C. Badger (University of Pennsylvania), the project historian, and edited in January 1980 by Susan McCown, a historian in the HABS office. The photos were taken in August 1973 by Jack E. Boucher of HABS staff.